



Written Testimony from the Texas Association of Community Health Plans

Texas House Public Health Committee

Interim Charge 1 related to SB 750

Interim Charge 2 related to the Healthy Texas Women Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver

Dear Chair Thompson and Committee Members:

The Texas Association of Community Health Plans (TACHP) appreciates your interest in the Healthy Texas Women's (HTW) Program. TACHP includes a consortium of 10 Medicaid health plans, also known as health insurance companies or Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). Our health plans are Texas companies that are regionally and locally based, and provide services throughout Texas with unmatched service in terms of cost competitiveness, consumer protections, and provider relations.

Interim Charge 1:

SB 750 requires HHSC to assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of contracting with Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) to provide Healthy Women program services through managed care. The Medicaid MCOs are willing to provide HTW services, and are well positioned to do so. 30 percent of HTW enrollees are women transitioning from Medicaid pregnant/postpartum coverage. If the MCOs managed HTW's benefits, postpartum women would have a seamless transition into HTW. The currently fragmented approach means women sometimes do not know about HTW or about the ability to access family planning services. If the MCOs managed HTW services, women who became pregnant would be familiar with the health plan and would already have a provider in the MCO's network. MCOs have broad networks of providers available to women, and member and provider services to help if there are any issues.

Interim Charge 2:

TACHP is a member of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition, and supports their comments and recommendations. Our health plans are owned by public and non-profit health systems providing women's health services throughout the state. We are supportive of HHSC's efforts and want to make sure the 1115 waiver transition goes smoothly, particularly with eligibility processes. Of concern are changes to 1) auto-enrollment; 2) adjunctive eligibility for women in WIC or children in Medicaid; and 3) the simplified enrollment form. Please see the submission from the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition for details on these three eligibility concerns.

Please let us know how we can assist. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Ghahremani', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kay Ghahremani
President and CEO